

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 12162 091621Z

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG XF UR

SUBJECT: REPORT OF USSR PROPOSAL FOR PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE

1. FRENCH COUNSELOR TOLD POLCOUNS SEPTEMBER 9 THAT SAID KAMAL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PLO POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, HAD HAD MEETING WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR POLYAKOV (MAY HAVE BEEN CHARGE AKAPOV SINCE WE NOT CERTAIN AMBASSADOR HAS RETURNED FROM LEAVE) SEPTEMBER 8 AND HAD COME TO SEE FRENCH COUNSELOR FOLLOWING MEETING. KAMAL HAD SAID SOVIET HAD SUGGESTED TIME WAS NOW PROPITIOUS FOR PLO TO FORM PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. KAMAL HAD APPARENTLY GIVEN NON-COMMITAL REPLY.

2. IN DISCUSSING PROPOSAL WITH FRENCH COUNSELOR, KAMAL SAID IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO FORM PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT ON SEVERAL COUNTS: (A) WHO WOULD REPRESENT PALESTINIANS INSIDE ISRAEL? (B) COMPETITION FOR POSITIONS IN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE MORE LIKELY TO DIVIDE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE THAN SOLIDIFY IT; AND (C) WHAT GUARANTEES WERE THERE THAT PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT WOULD RECEIVE RECOGNITION FROM STATES THAT COUNT? KAMAL HAD SAID THAT IF PLO WERE ASSURED OF RECOGNITION BY EEC, IT WOULD FORM PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT TOMORROW.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 CAIRO 12162 091621Z

3. COMMENT: FORMATION OF PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT, WHICH

HAS LONG BEEN URGED ON PLO BY SADAT, WAS ALSO APPARENTLY DISCUSSED IN CORRIDORS OF ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL MEETING IN CONNECTION WITH ITS ADMISSION AS A FULL AL MEMBER. PLO REPS HAD REJECTED PROPOSAL, PLEADING THAT EFFECTIVE ARAB SUMMIT ACTION TO RESOLVE LEBANESE CONFLICT MUST COME FIRST. FRENCH COUNSELOR THOUGHT IT LIKELY THAT LINKING PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT TO SUCCESSFUL SUMMIT WAS PLO WAY OF TEMPORIZING SINCE THERE IS CONSIDERABLE SKEPTICISM THAT SUMMIT WILL TAKE PLACE AND THAT, EVEN IF IT DOES, WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.

4. TO BEST OUR KNOWLEDGE THIS FIRST RECENT INSTANCE OF SOVIETS ENCOURAGING PLO TO FORM PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. THAT PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT IS NOW BEING DISCUSSED AGAIN MAY WELL BE CONNECTED WITH SYRIAN IDEAS FOR CONFEDERATION FOR NORTHERN FRONT STATES AND PLO.

5. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, WE BELIEVE SA'ID KAMAL IS SELF-PROMOTER AND OPPORTUNIST, MUCH PRONE TO EXAGGERATING HIS OWN IMPORTANCE WITHIN FATAH. GOE HAS FOR MANY MONTHS PRESSED ARAFAT TO REPLACE HIM AS PLO RE PIN CARIO. WE CONSEQUENTLY HESITATE TO ACCEPT AS FACE VALUE HIS INTERPRETATION OF WHY PLO OPPOSING GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE, THOUGH WE ASSUME PLO/SOVIET CONTACT PROBABLY DID TAKE PLACE. MATTHEWS

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